

AN ANALYSIS OF REQUESTS FOUND IN FILM *THE HELP*

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah (1) mendeskripsikan strategi permintaan yang digunakan dalam film *The Help*. Penulis memilih topik ini karena penulis ingin mengetahui strategi permintaan yang digunakan dalam film *The Help*. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah skrip film *The Help*. Data yang dikumpulkan berupa kata, phrase dan kalimat yang mengandung strategy permintaan di film *The Help*. Dari hasil analisis, penulis menemukan 9 strategi permintaan dari 9 strategi permintaan yang digunakan dalam film *The Help*.

Key words: Request, film, The Help

A. INTRODUCTION

Request happens in various situations where it has connection between speaker and hearer. Trosborg (1997) said that a request is an illocutionary act whereby a speaker /requester conveys to a hearer /requestee that he/she wants the requestee to perform an act, which is for the benefit of the speaker and, sometimes for the hearer. It means that people making requests in daily life to ask someone to do something. It happens between speaker and hearer. When people make request they should know the situation when they want to ask something. Sometimes when request happen in uncertain situation it will make the message does not deliver to the listener. So that, request does not happen. It happens if the listener understand

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what the speaker means. In order to make a request, people have to be careful because it can be considered something that burdens the listener. Request usually in the object, request an action, or service, and for information. Beside that, culture has influence thing in communication.

The culture of people influences in languages they used because it reflects the value of their life in society. Every culture has the rule that must be obeyed. When people do request is influenced by culture and it reflected by politeness. Politeness and request has relations each other where people ask to request something in polite way to convince the listener to do what they want. So that, people should know about the culture. Western culture includes low context because communication tend to be direct. In making request people has different

strategy. Ambiguity sometimes happens in making request because what the speaker want is not same as the message that hearer receive and it became misunderstanding between them.

How well people know someone is most important factor that is influenced the way to talk with them. The classification of social class people consists of high class, middle class, lower class, and working class. It influences the way people to talk with other people. It has space and differentiates between each classification people.

In everyday situations, people often do not directly express what they intend, but instead formulate utterances in ways which appear more polite to the hearers. For example; a. *Pass me the salt!* b. *could you pass me the salt?*. Both examples are effect of requests. However, the first one, phrased as an imperative has different connotation than the second, which use form of questions. In example b, could you pass me the salt is not actually a question about the ability of the addressee to pass the salt, but it to action. It has two pragmatic levels as question and it a request.

The use of request is also used in a movie because movie is representation of the real conversation in society. The language used in film is made up as natural as the real life. the language in movie and daily life is different because in movie has script but in the daily life is without script. In film it has two channels are eyes and ear. It film has relation with human interaction. It also has social context . Request is one of way to talking with other people. It creates a good relation. It they doing during conversation. Request in film based on script.

Script is a written text that it writes before the film is played. When people doing dialogue in film they should known about acting that will they play it. It has context where it describes situation. After they read the script film they will practice their dialogue based on script. In film their language is arranged in structured way.

Nowadays film became popular in daily life people. It is a kind of entertainment where there are many interesting story. A good film will influence human thinking when they are watching it because it gives a message to the people. It is like a real conversation among characters in film. The development of film industry produces many films in the world today. It considered being an important art form, a source of popular entertainment, a powerful medium for education. Film has the power to change our life. In film it has an act, one of them is making request. In making request, human have different ways and strategies. It influence by the relation between speaker and listener. If they are have close relation they will do request in direct way, and if they are not close usually they will do request in indirect way. Beside that, characters of some people are different, so that they will have different act to making a request.

Request is also occurs in daily life. It usually happen in language natural and spontaneous because it without script. They live in society where they need other people in their daily life. So that they making request. They way their making request is different with making request in film. Here *The Help* movie is chosen to be analyzed.

The are some reasons for choosing this movie to be analyzed are first that the film is a historical drama film based on a novel written by Tate Taylor. It shows how act someone asks something in the civil right era America or the early 1960s. The way people to requests something to other people is different. Second, in February 2012 film *The Help* receive four academy award nomination including best picture, best actress , and won best supporting artist and won the screen actors guild award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture. It influences language use in requesting. Third, this film show how interaction in daily life between Caucasian people and Africa American.

Request is the speaker want the hearer to do something. It usually happens in daily activity when doing interaction with other people. Hearer can accept request or refuse it. It depends on situation and what the speaker want hearer to do. Soler (2008) said that request is a directive act in which the goal of the request utterance is to bring about a future act of the hearer. The term 'direct' and 'indirect' request are assumed to be closely related to the politeness behavior. It has been argued that the notion of indirect style employed in request, indicates the higher level of politeness. It means that when making request people also act politeness to other people. It can be direct or indirect in doing request.

Becker in Achiba (2003) says request inclusively to an utterance that is intended to indicate the speaker's desire to regulate the behavior of the listener that is to get the listener to do something. In addition, Benjamin (2008) say a request is to ask someone to do or not to do something or to express the need or desire for something. It means that in making request speaker ask listener to doing something.

Searle in Bowe (2007) said that requests as having a propositional content in which the uttering of a requests aims to bring about a future act (A) of the hearer (H). This can be contrasted with a promise, for example, which relates to a future act (A) of the speaker. In this case Bowe seen that request bring to the future. It happens because in request there has an action with some utterance using an act.

Trosborg (1995) states that the act of requesting is for the benefit of the speaker and at the cost of the hearer, and this helps to distinguish request from other speech act. The features "benefit to speaker", "cost to hearer" are, in principle, decisive when distinguish request from other acts in which the speaker tries to exert his or her influence over the hearer.

Based on some definition above it can conclude that requests have utterances that consists of direct and indirect requests. It brings about a future act of the hearer. It asks someone to do or not to do something. Request is part of illocutionary act.

The request strategies in the following classification are ordered according to decreasing degree of directness. According to Blum-Kulka (in Francis, 1997) a combination of level of directness and strategy types in CCSARP project as follow: First, mood derivable. It is Utterances in which the grammatical mood of the verb signals illocutionary force. For example: "leave me alone". Second, performatives. It is Utterances in which the illocutionary force is explicitly named. For example: "I tell you to leave me alone". Third, hedged performatives. It is Utterances in which naming of the illocutionary force is modified by hedging expressions. For example: "I would like to ask you to leave me alone". Fourth, obligation statements. It is Utterances which state the obligation of the hearer to carry out the act. For example: "Sir, you'll have to move your car"

Fifth, want statements. It is utterances which state the speaker's desire that the hearer carries out the act. For example: "I want you to move your car". Six, suggestory formulae. It is utterances which contain a suggestion to do something .For Example: "How about cleaning up". Seventh, query-preparatory. It is utterances containing reference to preparatory conditions (e.g. ability, willingness) as conventionalized in any specific language. For Example: "Would you mind moving your car. Eight, strong hints. It is utterances containing partial reference to object or element needed for the implementation of the act. For Example: "The game is boring." Nine, mild hints. It is Utterances that make no reference to the request proper or any of its elements but are interpretable as requests by context. For example: "We've been playing this game for over an hour now."

Based on nine types of requests it can classify in three major of directness. First direct strategy in number 1-5, second conventionally indirect strategy in number 6-7, third nonconventionally indirect strategy in number 8-9.

Beside, Trip in Achiba (2003:3) divided directive requests in used by adults into six categories they are: need statements, imperatives, embedded imperatives, permission directives, questions directives and hints.

Another theory about request is stated by Trosborg (1995). She said that there are eight strategies of request. These eight strategies are part of four major categories of request. First, indirect request that consist of reasonableness, availability, obviousness. Second, conventionally indirect request consists of conditioning hearer ability, statement ability and willingness, suggestory formulae. Third, speaker based condition consists of statement speaker's wishes and desires, and statements of speaker is need and demands. Fourth, direct requests that consist of statement of obligation and necessity, performative and imperatives.

Related to explanation above, Trosborg explains there are eight strategies that consists of four major category of request are indirect request, conventionally indirect request, speaker based condition and direct request.

In conclusion, request is a part of directive act that consists of speaker and hearer. It to ask someone doing an action. Beside that in request has directive and indirective request. There are some kinds of request strategy. In making request people using different request strategy between them. Based on explanation above, the purpose of this research is to describe the request strategies use in film *Help*.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The source of this study was the script of film *The Help*. The data of this research are words, phrase, and clauses that contain requesting in the conversation of *The Help's* movie script, which were used English language. There were 124 data of requests found in film *The Help*. There were only 31 data strategy of request were taken randomly to be explained and analyzed in this chapter. The source of data will be gotten from script of the movie. The analysis of the data were the analysis strategies of request.

The data were analyzed by theory Blum- Kulka (1997), there were nine request strategy of request that can be found in script film *The Help* that were (1) mood derivable, (2) Query Preparatory, (3) Obligation Statement, (4) Performative, (5) Suggestory formulae, (6) Want statements, (7) Strong hints, (8) mild hints, (9) hedged performative.

C. DISCUSSION

The result of the study showed request strategies are mood derivable (21,7%), query preparatory (15,32%), obligation statement (13,7%), performative (13,7%) suggestory formulae (10,48%), want statement (9,6 %), strong hints (6,45%), mild hints (4,83%), and hedged performative (4,03 %). Based on The result above, the request strategy which is mostly used by the character in script film *The Help* was mood derivable and the less dominantly used was hedged performative.

Table 1. Request Strategies

No	Request strategy	frequency	Percentage
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1	Mood derivable	27	21,7 %
2	Query preparatory	19	15,32 %
3	Obligation statement	17	13,7 %
4	Performative	17	13,7%
5	Suggestory formulae	13	10,48 %
6	Want Statement	12	9,6 %
7	Strong hints	8	6,45%
8	Mild hints	6	4,83 %
9	Hedge performative	5	4,03 %

Based on table above, there are nine strategies of request used in film *The Help*. The writer had taken 124 data of request strategy in script film *The Help*. The data were analyzed by using Blum kulka that there are nine strategies of request.

1. Mood derivable

They are : shut, go, been down, hold on, got, tell, go, get off, be right there, eat up, sitting, gone, stop, do not speak, hear, get out, hurt, leave, check,

2. Performative

They are: watch my hair, what can you cook, get out of here, take your brother and sister and go to bed, give another pills, let me take a look, come here sexy, don't move a muscle, cut her one, watch out, come in here please, given ol' Oscar a wipe down, careful Hilly, don't give yourself away, don't go Aibee, lets out a little squeal,

3. Hedge performative

They are; I'd like to write, I'd like to do a book interview about working for whites family, don't give up on us, go find your life, miss skeeter.

4. Obligation statement

They are: we are late for bridge, get in your room, go on, you have pushed it, tell her a vinegar and pine –sol soak, go get momma and some iced tea, you don't have to call me ma'am, come on in, don't see it, lets of ice, he gone have to get over this, eat my shit, get that cleaned up, you have to promise not to tell anyone, open the door, try it on.

5. Want statement

They are: need, I want you to have this coat, I wish you'd just go use the bathroom, I want to write about.., I want to interview you, fix me a sandwich, I want you to listen to me, can I at least give you some bus money?, I need some help, I need to talk, I want to tell you something, you need to go now.

6. Suggestory formulae

They are : lets see what you got, wouldn't you rather than them, you can write my obituary, I want to write about, please let me interview you, lets go meet Oscar, lets begin

with, don't nope, lets me get my sweeter, get some ice out of the fridge, try to eat your dinner, don't cut her off like that.

7. Query preparatory

They are : can you clean, would you mind if I talk to Aibileen?, gotta over to the station, could have been you, could you help me, could you do that to mae mobley, would you help me, can I talk to you, would you please, can I get you a cold coca cola, can take the cadillac, would you consider giving us loan, may I get you something, would you like a cocktail, would you like to drop off at bridge club, you could take me to the belongs to stusrt, celia wouldn't have missed that, can I have your word, would you do me horror of signing my copy?.

8. Strong hints

They are: Aibileen , bridge club's in an hour, took hilly out for ice cream, no turning back now, you keep your nose and don't cry to her, taste it with a different spoon, you use the same cup, same fork and same plate everyday, don't hit her kids, no sass mouthing.

9. Mild hints

They are: No paprika, I give you cookie if you go, table isn't set, put momma in a chair, go help those boys's, get a hold of yourself.

Mood derivable was mostly used by the character in film *The Help* because in mood derivable the speaker ask the hearer based on grammatical mood. It means that in dialogue film *The Help* the character doing direct strategy. On the other hand, hedged performative were less dominantly in film *The Help* because in hedged performative it utterances in which naming of the illocutionary force is modified by hedging expressions.

It can be concluded that request strategies found in film the help movie were mood derivable, query preparatory, obligation statement, performative, suggestory formulae, want statement, suggestory formulae, query preparatory, strong hints, and mild hints. Then the most request strategy used in film the help was mood derivable.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

Request is the speaker want the hearer to do something. It brings about a future act of the hearer. It means that request asks someone to do or not to do something. In request are happens in direct, indirect, and conventionally indirect request.

After analyzing the data, it was found that request happens in film, especially based on script film. The writer found that sentences or phrases of request strategies are different between them. In analyzing the strategies of request, the writer used the theory of request strategies by Blum Kulka (1997). There are nine strategies of request found in film *The Help*. They were mood derivable, query preparatory, obligation statement, performative, suggestory formulae, want statement, suggestory formulae, query preparatory, strong hints, and mild hints. Mood derivable was mostly used by the character in film *The Help*.

This study was conducted in request strategies in script film *The Help* . The studies about request strategies also happen in another media like novel, newspaper and another media. The writer hopes to the next writer to researcher to study and to analyzed relevant researcher and to find deeply the researcher in this topic to study more other problems.

Note: This article is written based on Rimarliza's paper under supervision of Muhd. Al-Hafizh, S.S.M.A

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